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RSDA 98 3850 -19

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~~January 20, 2000~~

JAN 28 2000

Mr. Terry Moran
US Sea Launch Company
2700 Nimitz Road
Long Beach, CA 20802

Dear Mr. Moran:

Your letter of December 22, 1999 submitted in accordance with exemption DOT-E 12068 contains information on payload tanks containing **hydrazine**, anhydrous, hazard class 8, identification number UN2029, packing group I, scheduled for launch on February 29, 2000. Other hazardous materials in the payload include: ammonia, anhydrous, Division 2.3, identification number UN1005, hazard zone D; articles, explosive, n.o.s., Division 1.4S, identification number UN0349, packing group II; potassium hydroxide, solution, Class 8, identification number UN1814; and helium, compressed, Division 2.2, UN1046.

The specific payload configuration described in this submittal has been reviewed and is acceptable for transportation in commerce in accordance with the terms and conditions of DOT-E 12068. A copy of this letter must be maintained on file with the exemption while an integrated launch system with a payload of this configuration is in transportation.

Please be informed that we plan to modify the subject exemption to: (1) clarify that the DOT will acknowledge in writing the acceptability of payload designs with respect to hazardous materials transportation; (2) require that payload tanks containing hazardous materials meet the requirements of MIL-STD-1522A, "Standard General Requirements for Safe Design and Operation of Pressurized Missile and Space Systems," and that a design burst pressure to maximum expected operating pressure safety factor of 2.0 apply to transportation activities (deviations from these general requirements may be permitted provided they are identified and adequately justified); (3) require that all payload hazardous materials that are unique to the payload be identified; (4) require analysis of hazards and risks for hazardous materials in transportation for both the launch vehicle and payloads (as part of such analysis, possible public impact outside of Sea Launch facilities must be addressed); and (5) change the time requirement for notification of payload designs and design changes in the integrated launch vehicle affecting hazardous materials from 30 to 90 days.

If you have any questions ~~on this letter~~, ^{please} contact Douglas Reeves, ^{at} (202) 366-4438.

Sincerely,

J. Suzanne Hedgepeth, Director
Office of Hazardous Materials
Exemptions and Approvals

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